DIEV ET MON DROIT.

By the King.

A Proclamation for restraint of killing, dressing,

and eating of Flesh in Lent, or on Fish dayes, appointed by the Law, to be hereafter strictly obserued by all sorts of people.

Whereas, for the benefit and commoditie of this Our Realme of England, as well in the maintenance of Our Naule and Shipping (a principall strength of this Iland) as for the sparing and increase of Flesh victuall, diuers good Lawes and Statutes haue beene prouided, for the due obseruation of Lent, and other dayes appointed for Fish dayes, which from time to time haue beene seconded and quickened by sundry Our Proclamations, and other Actes and Ordinances of State: And whereas, notwithstanding the many good prouisions heretofore had and made in that kinde, Wee yet finde the inordinate liberty now vsually taken by all sorts of people, to kill, dresse, and eate Flesh in the Lent season, and on other dayes and times prohibited by Law, is become an euill of such inueterate growth, as it requireth more then ordinary care to suppresse the same:

We therefore much affecting the Reformation of this so great an euill (and enemie to the plentie of Our Kingdomes) haue thought fit eftsoones (and that thus timely, the better to take away the excuse, and to preuent the promotions of Flesh that vsually men make against the Lent season) To expresse Our selfe and Our Royall Commandement in this behalfe: wherein without any future declaration of Our pleasure in this kind, we shall expect and require from all Our Subiects, that due notice be taken, and that a strict and continued obedience and conformity be yeelded thereunto in all succeeding times.

And therefore wee doe straitly Charge and Command all and euery person and persons whatsoeuer, to whom it may appertaine, carefully to prouide and see, that these Orders following may bee duely obserued and put in execution, vpon paine of Our high displeasure, and such penalties as by the Lawes of this Our Realme may bee inflicted vpon the Offenders for their contempt or neglect of Vs and Our Lawes, whereof we shall shew Our selues most sensible.

And first, whereas we find that the chiefest cause of these disorders hath growen from the Licences that haue bin granted to Butchers to kill and vtter flesh contrary to Law, and that by Our Lawes no Mayor, Iustice of Peace, or other person of what degree or quality soeuer, can grant any Licence in this kind, And that the Lords and others of Our Priuie Councell, doe by Our direction forbeare to grant the same, or to giue way thereto; Our will and pleasure is vpon the penalties prouided by Law, and such further punishment to be inflicted vpon the Offenders, as shall be thought meet, that no such Licence shall be graunted for the killing or vttering of Flesh, And that no Butcher or other person whatsoeuer, doe by colour thereof, kill, vtter, or put to sale, any flesh contrary to the Lawes established and prouided in that behalfe.

And for the auoiding of such inconueniences hereafter, Our will and pleasure is, That the Lord Maior of Our City of London, and euery other Officer & Iustice of Peace, shall call before them, and send for any of the seruants of any Inholders, Victuallers, Cookes, Alehousekeepers, Tauerners, and keepers of Ordinary Tables, and such others that vtter Victualles, and to examine them vpon their corporall Oathes, What Flesh is, or hath beene during the Lent season, or other dayes prohibited by the Law, dressed, killed, vttered, or eaten in their houses, which if they shall refuse to doe, then to commit to prison the said seruants so refusing vpon their Oathes to declare the trueth.

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That the Lord Maior shall also yeerely before Lent, or at the beginning thereof, cause all Inholders, Keepers of Ordinary Tables, Victuallers, Alehousekeepers, and Tauerners within the City and Liberties thereof, to appeare before him, or such person as hee shall appoint meet for that purpose; And shall take Recognizances with sufficient Sureties of euery of them in good summes of money (viz.) one hundred pounds of the Principall, and their Sureties thirtie pounds apiece, to Our vse, not to dresse any Flesh in their houses in the Lent time, or at any other times prohibited for any respect, nor suffer it to be eaten contrary to the Law. The like Recognizance with Sureties, shalbe taken of the like parties vpon like penalties, by the Justices of Peace of Our City of Westminster, and the Libertes therof. And euery of the said Recognizances to be certified into Our Exchequer.

And for the Butchers and others that come with victuall of Flesh out of the Countrey to the City, Our pleasure is, That the Lord Maior shall cause certaine persons to watch at the Gates and other like places in the Suburbs, where Flesh may bee brought, to view and search, and to intercept the same: and if any of those watchmen shall be found negligent and corrupt in his Charge, then hee to be committed to prison during the whole Lent.

And to the end that Fishermen may imploy themselues to Sea with better encouragement then heretofore, and that the Fishmongers may furnish themselues with such store from time to time hereafter, as shall be expedient, aswell for the prouision of the Citie, as for selling the same at reasonable Rates; Wee will that they take notice of this Our Commandement and constant resolution for the obseruance of Lent, and Fish-dayes, both now and hereafter, as by Law is required.

And furthermore, as we thinke it fit that euery man should be a rule of order and abstinence in his owne house, as well in respect of the publique, as of his priuate ease and benefit, So wee straightly charge and command all Inholders, Keepers of Ordinary Tables, Victuallers, Alehousekeepers, and Tauerners, not to make any Supper for any person or persons whatsoeuer vpon Friday nights, either in Lent or out of Lent; nor to suffer any meat to be then dressed, vttered, sold or eaten in their houses, vpon paine of such punishment as is due to those that shall contemne Our Royall pleasure and Commandement.

And forasmuch as vpon further aduice and consideration had, that the restraint of killing and dressing of Flesh is no sufficient remedy for the mischiefe; vnlesse there be better care taken also to suppresse the vnlawfull and inordinate eating of flesh in the time of Lent, and on other dayes and times prohibited, wherewith Our Subiects haue accustomed themselues rather for delicacy then for necessitie; It is therefore Our Royall Will and pleasure, and accordingly we doe hereby straightly prohibite and forbid all Our Subiects of What degree or quality soeuer within this Our Realme, to eat any maner of flesh in the time of Lent, or on other dayes now vsually obserued as Fish-dayes, without a speciall Licence first obtained from the Bishop of the Diocesse, or such other as by the Law haue power to giue Licence in that behalfe, (which we will and command shall be sparingly granted, and in cases of necessitie onely) vpon paine of Our high displeasure, and to be proceeded against by Our Attourney Generall in Our Court of Starre Chamber, as contemners of Our Royall Commandement, and vpon such further penaltie as by the Lawes and Statutes of Our Realme may be inflicted on those as shall wilfully offend in this kinde.

And as these Orders are to be executed in the City of London, and places neere to the same, So is Our expresse Pleasure and Commandement, That Our Justices of Peace in all Shires within their Rule, and all other Maiors, Bayliffes, and chiefe Officers in Townes corporate, or in any Liberties within their Precincts, shall cause the same to be obserued and performed in like manner; and that no manner of Toleration, Fauour, or Conniuencie be vsed by any Justice of Peace, or other Officer, contrary to the true meaning of this Our Proclamation, as both they that shall presume wittingly so to tolerate the offence, as also the party himselfe offending, will answere the same at their vttermost perils: Our Commandement being, That Our Lawes in this case shall bee hereafter seuerely executed vpon all offenders whatsoeuer.

Further charging and commanding the Lord Maior of our City of London, the Justices of Assize in their seuerall Circuits, the Maiors and chiefe Officers of all other Cities and Townes corporate, Justices of Peace, Lords of Liberties, and all other Officers and Ministers within the seuerall Counties of this our Realme, That they and euery of them fully obey this Our pleasure, and cause and compell the same to be obeyed and executed by others, as they will answere the contrary at their vttermost perils.

And for the due execution of the premisses in all other the Counties of this our Realme, aswell as in Our Cities of London and Westminster, We doe hereby straightly Charge and Command all Our Justices of Peace within the same Counties, aswell within Liberties as without, That yeerely and euery yeere hereafter before Lent, they cause to come and appeare before them all Inholders,

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Cookes, Tauerners, Alehouſe-keepers, Butchers, and other Victuallers whatſoeuer, and to require and take of them to Our vſe, ſeuerall Recognizances, with Sureties, for obſeruation of the premiſſes, (viz.) The principals in ten pounds, and their two Sureties in fiue pounds apiece: And if they ſhall refuſe or neglect to enter into ſuch Recognizances, That then the ſayd Juſtices ſhall ſuppreſſe ſuch perſons ſo refuſing, from Victualling any more, and ſhall alſo cauſe them forthwith to become bound by Recognizance with Sureties to Our vſe, (viz.) The principals in twentie pounds, and their two Sureties in tenne pounds apiece, not to Victuall or ſell Beere or Ale from thenceforth; which if they ſhall refuſe to doe, then the ſayd Juſtices to commit to priſon all ſuch perſons ſo refuſing to enter into ſuch Recognizance, vntill they ſhall ſubmit themſelues, and become bound, as aforeſayd. And further for all ſuch Inholders, Cookes, Tauerners, Alehouſe-keepers, Butchers, and other Victuallers as ſhall not appeare before the ſaid Juſtices, as aforeſaid, That they immediatly ſend forth their Warrants, or graunt Proceſſe againſt them and euery of them ſo making default, to appeare and anſwere their contempt at the next generall Seſſions of the Peace.

And further for the more due puniſhment of Inholders, Keepers of ordinary Tables, Cookes, Butchers, Victuallers, Alehouſe-keepers, Tauerners, and ſuch like, who ſhall forfeit their Recognizances by killing or dreſſing of fleſh, or ſuffering it to be eaten in their houſes in the Lent time, and other Fiſh-dayes; And to the end that the ſame may bee alſwell taken in due forme of Law, as duely certified into Our Exchequer, Wee doe Will and require all Juſtices of Peace, as well within Liberties as without, That at ſuch times as they ſhall meet within their ſeuerall Diuiſions, for the taking of ſuch Recognizances, that they giue notice to the Clerkes of the Peace, or their Deputies, to attend them for that purpoſe; Of whom Wee will require a ſtrict Accompt for the Legall taking and returning of the ſame Recognizances into Our ſayd Exchequer: The ſayd Clerkes of the Peace and their Deputies, taking for the making and certifying of the ſame Recognizances of all Inne-keepers, Tauerners, Cookes and Butchers, the Fee of two ſhillings fiue pence; And of all Alehouſe-keepers the Fee of twelue pence, as limited to be taken by the Clerke of the Peace for Our Countie of Middleſex for euery ſuch Recognizance, and no more.

And laſtly, for that the Fiſhmongers (vpon the obſeruation of the aforeſaid Orders) may perhaps take occaſion thereby to enhance the prices as well of freſh as of Sea fiſh; We doe therefore hereby further charge and command all Fiſhmongers whatſoeuer, That they ſell and vtter their Fiſh at moderate and vſuall Rates and prices: And that all Juſtices of Peace, Maiors, Bailifes, and other Our officers as well within Liberties as without, to whom it ſhal appertaine, ſhal from time to time take ſuch order with the ſaid Fiſhmongers, that Our Subiects be not greeued by any ſuch enhancement or encreaſe of prices vpon Fiſh, vpon paine of Our high diſpleaſure, and ſuch further puniſhment as may be inflicted vpon them by Our Lawes.

Giuen at Our Court at New-Market the fourth day of February, in the nineteenth yeere of Our Raigne of England, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland the fiue and fiftieth.

God ſaue the King.

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